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28 February 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: S. J. Res. 1 -- "Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to the making of treaties and executive agreements."  
and  
S. J. Res. 2 -- "To impose limitations with regard to Executive agreements."

REFERENCE: Cir. ltr to the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies from the President dtd 25 February 1953, same subject.

1. Attached is a proposed memorandum in response to referenced memorandum from the President. The present letter is substantially similar to the previous memorandum for the President signed by General Smith on 29 May 1952 concerning similar resolutions introduced in the previous Congress.

2. The undersigned attended a meeting at the White House on 27 February pursuant to referenced memorandum. Mr. Shanley opened the meeting stating the subject was of serious concern to the President. Mr. Shanley indicated that the President concurred with a suggestion that Mr. Phleger, Legal Adviser, Department of State, assume responsibility for coordinating the view of the Executive Departments and Agencies. It was stressed that the matter should be considered carefully by all departments looking toward a fully coordinated view of the Executive Department to the Judiciary Committee. It was agreed further that the Secretary of State should be the first witness. Mr. Shanley requested that the discussions be in confidence and no statements made to the press.

3. Mr. Phleger then took over the meeting and indicated his opinion that more time was needed to study the matter and prepare coordinated views. Senator Mundt had requested the Secretary of State to testify next Wednesday but it was thought there would be no difficulty in getting at least a month's delay with the view of securing further extensions if necessary.

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4. The preliminary views of all concerned were requested to be placed in the memorandum due for delivery on 2 March. It was suggested that there also be included a statement indicating the time deemed necessary to analyze the effects of proposed resolutions thereby supporting the request for delay.

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*Not sent*

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